

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01

AID-20 OMB-01 DRC-01 IO-14 NIC-01 /179 W

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P R 131745Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6751

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

COMCARIBSEAFRON

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 0299

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GJ, PINS, PINT

SUBJ: GRENADA STRIKE CONTINUES

REF: BTN 289 NOTAL

SUMMARY

MEETINGS BETWEEN GOG AND COMMITTEE OF 22 FAIL TO SETTLE STRIKE. COMMITTEE SEEKS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER CARIBBEAN TERRITORIES. ELECTRICAL AND COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS TO RECONSIDER STRIKE QUESTION. GOG OFFERS REWARDS FOR RECOVERY OF STOLEN EXPLOSIVES. END SUMMARY.

1. TALKS BETWEEN PM ERIC GAIRY AND REPRESENTATIVES OF COMMITTEE OF 22 LATE LAST WEEK EVIDENTLY FAILED TO PRODUCE GOG CONCESSIONS TO COMMITTEE'S DEMANDS OR SOLUTION TO
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CURRENT SHUTDOWN OF BUSINESSES AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES, NOW

IN ITS SEVENTH WEEK. REPRESENTATIVES OF COMMITTEE SPEAKING IN BARBADOS OVER WEEKEND SAID TALKS WERE HELD FEB 14 IN RESPONSE TO GAIRY'S CALL FOR NEW DIALOGUE. COMMITTEE LEADERS PRESENTED GAIRY WITH LIST OF EIGHT POINTS WHICH THEY ARGUED GOG MUST ACCEPT IF IT IS TO REGAIN PUBLIC CONFIDENCE. IN ADDITION TO EARLIER DEMANDS FOR DISBANDING OF POLICE AIDES, PROSECUTION OF POLICE OFFICIALS ACCUSED OF BRUTALITY, AND END TO INDISCRIMINATE SEARCHES, LIST INCLUDED NEW DEMANDS FOR REINSTATEMENT OF COMMISSION OF INQUIRY (SUSPENDED IN LATE JANUARY) AND HOLDING OF "IMPARTIAL" ELECTIONS WITHIN THREE MONTHS. COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE ST. P. LOUIS, INTERVIEWED BY BARBADOS REDIFUSSION RADIO FEB 15, STATED THAT COMMITTEE HAD NOT EXPECTED GAIRY TO ACCEPT ALL EIGHT POINTS BUT WAS DISAPPOINTED BY HIS REFUSAL TO MAKE ANY CONCESSIONS WHATSOEVER. LOUIS SAID GAIRY'S CALL FOR DIALOGUE WOULD BE MEANINGLESS UNLESS GOG PREPARED TO MAKE SOME COMPROMISE, AND THAT OPPOSITION GROUPS WOULD HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO CONTINUE STRIKE AND STRUGGLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DESPITE PERSONAL HARDSHIPS AND DAMAGE TO ECONOMY.

2. LOUIS AND FELLOW COMMITTEE MEMBER DR. ETHELSTON FRIDAY WERE GUEST SPEAKERS AT MEETING IN BARBADOS FEB 18 TO ESTABLISH BARBADOS BRANCH OF COMMITTEE CALLED "FRIENDS OF GRENADA." OTHER BRANCHES BEING ESTABLISHED IN OTHER CARIBBEAN TERRITORIES TO PUBLICIZE AND GAIN SUPPORT FOR COMMITTEE OF 22'S STANCE AND TO RAISE FUNDS FOR STRIKING WORKERS.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS OVER GOVERNMENT-OPERATED RADIO GRENADA FEB 18 WARNED RESIDENTS NOT TO TAMPER WITH ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES IN EVENT ISLAND'S POWER TURNED ON UNEXPECTEDLY. ANNOUNCEMENTS TAKEN AS INDICATION ELECTRICITY MAY BE RESTORED SHORTLY. AS YET, HOWEVER, TECHNICAL AND ALLIED WORKERS' UNION (TAWU), WHOSE MEMBERS STAFF ELECTRICITY AND COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, HAS GIVEN NO INDICATION IT INTENDS TO END ITS STRIKE. TAWU SCHEDULED TO MEET FEB 19 TO RECONSIDER ITS STRIKE DECISION.

4. MEANWHILE, GOG IS OFFERING EC \$3,000 REWARD FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO RECOVERY OF ESTIMATED 300 POUNDS OF EXPLOSIVES REPORTEDLY STOLEN FROM WAREHOUSE OF WIMPEY CONSTRUCTION CO. NEAR GRENVILLE ON FEB 12 (BTN 276). RADIO GRENADA HAS ALSO UNCLASSIFIED

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BROADCAST OFFERS OF REWARDS FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING THEFTS OF WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION FROM RURAL POLICE STATIONS DURING PAST TWO WEEKS. GRENADA POLICE REPORTEDLY SEIZED TWO DOZEN WEAPONS AND UNSPECIFIED QUANTITY OF AMMUNITION IN SEARCHES OVER WEEKEND. PRESS REPORTS QUOTE UNNAMED OPPOSITION SPOKESMEN AS CLAIMING THAT GOG'S ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING WEAPONS AND EXPLOSIVES THEFTS ARE DESIGNED TO CREATE ATMOSPHERE OF TENSION TO JUSTIFY GOG'S LAUNCHING WIDER CAMPAIGN AGAINST

OPPOSITION GROUPS.

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